



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

tion in productive technique and organization on this ultimate basis, though perfectly sound, is somewhat platitudinous and narrow. The questionings of most minds will be better satisfied with an explanation in terms of factors which, though not so final, are closer to the events themselves. In this view, what our author subordinates as merely "indispensable conditions" become "determining conditions" which mould the character of the transformation through which the demand for more products is met. That is, they become proximate causes of that particular step in the everlasting forced march of productive improvement.

It remains only to say that the author traces the development of industrialism in Belgium through the decline of the handicrafts and of house industry and the rise of concentration in industrial organization. On the controverted question of the endurance of handicrafts and small industries, the author argues strongly that these have in fact steadily declined in Belgium, notwithstanding many statistical indications to the contrary, and that the essential nature of the economic forces at work is such that economic development must tend constantly away from the dispersed organization under the handicrafts and toward concentration. His treatment of Belgian development is thus limited to the industrial phases, in the strict sense of the word. But the title promises no more.

An extensive bibliography fills the last 84 pages of the book.

ARTHUR SARGENT FIELD.

Washington, D. C.

*Der Geldhandel der deutschen Juden während des Mittelalters bis zum Jahre 1350.* By MOSES HOFFMAN. Schmoller und Ser-  
ing's Staats- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschungen, Heft  
152. (Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot. 1910. Pp. x, 236.  
6.90 m.)

Rabbi Hoffmann's monograph ably maintains the high standard of careful research which has characterized this series. It is one of three recent contributions in this field. Although not so extensive as either Caro's *Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Juden im Mittelalter und Neuzeit* (Vol. I, Leipzig, 1908) or Sombart's *Die Juden und das Wirtschaftsleben* (Leipzig, 1911), the present work is of special interest because of the fact that it is the first adequate effort to utilize a large body of Hebrew sources on the subject. Half of the publication is made up of some two hundred

and fifty documents conveniently translated into German. These are chiefly contemporary records of loans and trade agreements in which one or both parties were Jews. The bibliography contains a list of the collections of Hebrew sources from which these have been gathered together with the titles of fifty German monographs. The limits of the work have been frankly restricted, no effort being made to unearth the rich mines of material imbedded in the innumerable collections of town records and archives. The text of the essay is, then, simply a guide to these hitherto untouched data, preceded by a useful review of the general economic activities of the Jews during the period in question.

The author has made liberal use of the works of Ehrenberg, Schulte, Schaub and other well-known authorities. Certain original digressions are noticeable, however, and these are in most cases well substantiated by memoranda of business agreements, partnerships, accounts, etc. The chapter on the slave traffic carried on by the Jews is singularly free from the prejudice, either philo- or anti-semitic, which has persisted in even the most recent works. The section on the agricultural pursuits of the Jews during the tenth and eleventh centuries is brief but suggestive of a new and interesting field for research. The work shows clearly that the economic activities of the Jews of the period under investigation were by no means confined to money-lending, although they later became the dominant factor in this field. The date of the attainment of this supremacy the author is inclined to fix at a much earlier period than that usually accepted. In this connection he questions Lamprecht's attempt to periodize by assigning the twelfth century to the church, the thirteenth to the nobility and burgers, and the fourteenth to the Jews. The evidence offered by Hoffmann, however, on the Jewish supremacy in the money markets before 1300 is little more than fragmentary, although he does establish the fact that, after the middle of the twelfth century, church restrictions and a growing interest in foreign trade left the field of money-lending more and more to the Jews.

Rabbi Hoffmann's monograph cannot be called a real contribution to the fund of knowledge on this subject, nor does it purport to be such. It is useful as a brief resumé of the information already available with the tinge of prejudice conveniently removed. Its chief value lies in the introduction which it affords to a valuable body of hitherto unused Hebrew material.

*Harvard University.*

JULIUS KLEIN.